(ii) if there are any, how long have they been in service;

(*b*) are there any Range Inspectors in service?

A.—**The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT (Rajasevanipuna S. Shamanna).**—

(*a*) (i) One.

(ii) 3 years and 4 months.

(*b*) No.

Mr. S. C. BELURIAH.—When will this official in the Excise Department be promoted to the next higher grade?

Mr. PRESIDENT.—That question cannot be considered in the Assembly. If anything is possible, the Excise Commissioner will look into it.

Installation of Loud-Speaker.

At this stage, the members brought to notice the necessity for installing a loud-speaker at the other end of the Assembly Hall, so that what was spoken from the platform might be clearly audible to the members seated at that end.

The PRESIDENT replied that arrangements would be made to instal another set at the future sessions.

RESOLUTIONS—*concld.*

Resolution No. 6—*concld.*

In supplementing the views expressed in support of the resolution, **Mr. K. CHENGALARAYA REDDY** emphasised that the question of having a non-official President for the Representative Assembly was of paramount importance, especially at a time when political changes had become the order of the day. He alluded to the reference made in the Dewan's Address to the various forms of Government prevalent in Europe and said that the members were agreeably surprised to find that the Dewan, who had formerly entertained certain doubts, had changed his opinion as a result of the recent European tour and pronounced himself in favour of democracy in the following words:—

". . . Let us, therefore, thank Heaven that we have not wasted our money or our resources in these years when the world has been so sick, in experimenting with untried specifics, but have stuck to the old general practitioner, democracy, who alone has his reputation unsullied and his brass plate untarnished. . . ."

So far as the Mysore Constitution was concerned, he said that the Representative Assembly was a limb of the future democracy. Hence it was essential that such a limb should have a non-official President as in the case of all constitutional assemblies such as the English House of Commons, the Provincial Legislative Councils in British India, the Indian Legislative Assembly and the Council of State. The high principle involved in having a non-official President in such institutions had been recognised everywhere and given effect to. But it was an irony of fate, he remarked, that even though more than 50 years had elapsed since the inauguration of the Representative Assembly in Mysore, no perceptible advance had been made by it on truly democratic lines. The Assembly needed to be improved in several respects but as a preliminary measure, it was essential to have a non-official President.

Proceeding, the member pointed out that the Dewan had stated in the same Address of his that "The Ruler was ever ready to try out reforms, to promote anything that was for the good of the people, subject only to the maintenance of a reasoned and ordered advance, without rushing either impetuously ahead or loitering aimlessly in the rear." Consistently with those lofty ideals, he requested the Dewan to convey to His Highness the Maharaja the prayer of the Assembly for a non-official President in place of the existing official President to the Assembly.

The speaker next referred to the view points expressed by those who opposed the resolution and observed that their arguments were more sentimental than real. They did not seem to realise that it would be impossible for an official President to detach himself from the policy of the administration and examine the questions coming up before the Assembly with an open mind. Whereas, a strict application to the duties of a speaker of the House required that he should keep the scales even between opposing parties and arrive at a just and equitable decision. He had to keep an eye over the different

parties and give equal opportunities to every one of them to voice their opinions. What was more, the speaker had to listen with undivided attention to all the view-points. But it had become very difficult for an official President to pay heed to all those details. Because, in the midst of the session, by virtue of his position as Head of the Administration, he would be compelled to give his attention to urgent matters relating to administration and pass orders on official files even from his presidential seat in the Assembly; and during such intervals, at least, his attention was bound to be diverted and to that extent the interests of the Assembly suffered.

It had been argued by the opposers of the resolution that the grievances of the people could be taken by the members directly to the notice of the Dewan, if he continued as the President, and that after ascertaining the facts first-hand, he would be enabled to redress the grievances more promptly than if he were to be guided merely by notes recorded on official files. As regards that argument. he asked whether in British India, where there were non-official Presidents to the councils, the members had not succeeded in impressing their view-points on the Government. Even in those councils the Government was fully represented in the Treasury Benches and it was also common knowledge that the Governor or the Governor-General, as the case might be, was in close touch with the occurrences in the Assemblies, and necessary executive action was being taken there also as in Mysore.

Again, in the course of the discussions, several matters affecting the administrative policy of the State would be raised and the official President would not be in a position to take an unbiassed view of those questions since he would naturally have to support the official views on those matters. These drawbacks could be obviated only by having a non-official President.

It would be enough if the Dewan merely opened the Assembly with an Address, reviewing the State administration, just as Governors were doing in British Indian Provinces, and further proceedings might be left to the non-official President, the Government being represented in it by the Executive Councillors and the Secretaries to Government in the various departments. Another objection to the continuance of the existing arrangement lay in the fact that the non-official members were suffering from a sort of inferiority complex in the Assembly owing to the separatist tendency exhibited by the official members. In his opinion, such a feeling would not have been in evidence if there was a non-official President guiding the deliberations, and treating both the sections of the House alike.

The speaker had no hesitation in saying that Mysore was not lacking in competent persons to do full justice to the onerous duties of the President of the Assembly. He was sure that a contrary view on that point should only be taken to be the outcome of prejudice, not deserving to be taken seriously. If there were any legal obstacles in the way of accepting the reform and giving effect to it, he requested the Government to take early steps to amend the regulation suitably.

In conclusion, he reminded the Government that under the existing constitution, the non-official members had no rewards to look up to. In that respect they formed a contrast to the civilian officers who were buoyed up with hopes of rising higher and higher in the official ladder. He therefore appealed to the Government to liberalise their policy by accepting the resolution and thus creating some inducement for the non-official members to work with greater enthusiasm in the Assembly. He also requested the Dewan to submit the views of the members on this question to His Highness for his gracious consideration. With these observations, he supported the resolution.

Speaking in support of the resolution, **Mr. N. G. SANJEEVIAH** said that he was surprised at the argument that the system of non-official Presidents had led to local feuds and that if a similar privilege was extended to the Assembly, it might result in hampering its smooth working. Those who argued in that

strain seemed to have overlooked the fact that if that were so, the district board members who had it in their power to bring censure motions against the Presidents would have duly exercised that power long ago and got them ousted. The very fact that no such thing had happened disproved the allegation. Similarly, he argued that it would be quite possible for the members of the Assembly to check any possible misdemeanour on the part of the proposed non-official President by providing the necessary safeguard in the Representative Assembly Regulation.

Proceeding, the member pointed out that several reforms had been introduced in the councils of British India and every time some additional privileges had been bestowed on them. But the Mysore Assembly was almost static in that respect. As explained by the previous speakers, the constitutional assemblies of Travancore and Cochin, which were of later origin, had marched ahead of Mysore by providing for non-official Deputy Presidents. These latter obtained opportunities of presiding over the Assembly during the absence of the official President and the prestige of the State had not suffered thereby in any manner.

The inconvenience of having an official President as actually felt in Mysore lay in the fact that being in-charge of certain portfolios of administration, the Dewan was reluctant to allow free discussions in certain matters and was somewhat lavish in exercising his power of disallowance of adjournment motions. The speaker felt that there would be a decisive improvement in that direction if there be a non-official President, as evidenced in the recent Simla Session of the Legislative Assembly where the non-official President had raised no manner of objection to admitting an adjournment motion relating to an alleged stabbing of a student by an European soldier. *Per contra*, he pointed out that an adjournment motion pertaining to the conduct of an officer at Nandi Hills had been disallowed by the official President just the previous day, because the official President was keen on safeguarding the prestige of Government officers. If there had been a non-official President, he would certainly have allowed the adjournment motion to be discussed. On those grounds, he supported the resolution.

Mr. C. N. NARASINGA RAO pointed out that the outcome of the resolution would be nothing more than the creation of a single appointment which any one member of the House could hold for a period of three years. At the same time, he was afraid that in coveting the non-official Presidentship, the members might fail to press for further reforms, and the grant of responsible Government would be delayed. Personally, he would therefore give the foremost place to the question of establishment of responsible Government and leave all minor reforms of the kind proposed in the resolution to follow it. He was of opinion that in the absence of responsible Government, it would not be possible for the people to reap the full advantage of having a non-official President. Because, in its absence, there would be no party system or parliamentary form of government. Only under such a system would it be possible to select a speaker who did not belong to any party and who could be trusted to conduct the deliberations free from bias of any kind. For these reasons, he gave his qualified support to the resolution.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA was opposed to the resolution in the form in which it had been brought up. He would not be content with securing the privilege of having a non-official President for the Assembly but would like to have also non-official Ministers. With that end in view, he urged the Government to grant further constitutional reforms. In his opinion, if the resolution was accepted by Government in the absence of such reforms, it would be like putting the cart before the horse.

Mr. D. S. MALLAPPA, speaking in support of the resolution, pointed out that at a time when details of an All-India Federation were being worked out in British India, Mysore was just asking for the privilege of having a non-official President to the Representative Assem-

bly. This showed that Mysore was very backward in administrative matters. The scheme of entrusting the governance of local bodies to non-officials had worked quite successfully and had proved beyond doubt that there was no paucity of competent persons among non-officials.

Mr. MALLAPPA, did not believe that the grant of responsible Government would be delayed by the privilege asked for in the resolution. On the other hand, he believed that the advent of a non-official President to the Assembly would create the necessary atmosphere of freedom and stimulate ambition among the public, which in its turn might make for accelerating the question of further reforms towards the attainment of responsible Government in the State. So long as there was an official President at the head of the constitutional bodies, the question of responsible Government was bound to be delayed. Being keen on maintaining official prestige, it would be but natural for the official President to oppose all democratic ideas. Under the existing conditions, freedom and ambition were badly wanting amongst the members of the Assembly, and in the interest of creating such an atmosphere, he pleaded for a non-official President to the Assembly.

Rao Sahib M. RAMASWAMI, while agreeing with the supporters of the resolution in their view that it was desirable to introduce in the State the system in vogue in the British Indian Councils, did not consider that the time was opportune for the proposed change. Under the peculiar constitution of the Assembly, he was sceptical about its advantages over the existing system. In that connection, he invited attention to the grim struggle that was going on in Europe for and against various forms of political institutions, reference to which had been made by the Dewan in his Opening Address. He felt that the great upheaval that was in evidence in the West should serve as an eye-opener to the members who had been advocating the reform proposed in the resolution. He therefore warned the members against blindly copying a system without ascertaining its suitability to local conditions.

So far as the existing constitution of Mysore was concerned, it had been applauded even by some of the prominent national leaders. They had testified to the fact that in matters of education, industry and commerce, Mysore was in advance of not only other States but also of British India. There was perfect identity of interest as between the Ruler and the ruled, and by virtue of the fact that the Dewan happened to be the President of the Assembly, there was scope for representatives of the people to approach not only the Dewan but also the Heads of Departments and acquaint them with the people's grievances first hand In that respect he considered the existing system of having an official President as the ideal system. The speaker emphasised that the House should not barter away such a privilege for the doubtful advantage of having a non-official President.

Proceeding, the speaker explained that it was not his idea that the existing system should be continued for ever without change. But he was against any radical change till such time as there was a substantial improvement in the general level of education and culture among the subjects of the State. He therefore opposed the resolution.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, on the other hand, supported the resolution and pointed out that it was not such a controversial question as it was depicted to be by a few speakers. What the resolution wanted was that the presidentship of the Assembly should be thrown open to non-officials so that they might elect to it one competent member from among themselves. After all, what was expected of the official President was to see to the orderly discussion of the *pros* and *cons* of each question coming up before the Assembly and then put it to the House for being voted upon. A similar procedure would be adopted by the non-official President also and there would be no manner of change so far as the procedure went. Still, the one advantage that naturally loomed large before the

House was that the members would secure, under a non-official, better opportunities to voice their opinions without fear or favour.

Continuing, he said that at present the tendency on the part of an official President was to exercise the power of disallowance rather freely. The same thing might not occur with a non-official President. The *pros* and *cons* of every question could be explained by the members more freely in the House.

The speaker also thought that by the appointment of a non-official President, the party feelings which were in evidence in the existing Assembly might disappear, because each party would aspire for the place of President and in that attempt must necessarily shake off party bias in order to gain popularity. Personally the speaker considered the status of a non-official President of the Assembly to be higher than that of the Dewan himself, and for that reason only the best person in the State would be selected for it. Knowing this, every aspirant to the place was likely to aim at popularity among all communities by subordinating all other considerations.

As regards the uncomplimentary references made to the existing District Board Presidents, he was of opinion that they were unwarranted. Even granting the arguments to be true, for purposes of argument, he pointed out that such drawbacks were to be seen in every country. Mistakes were likely to occur in the transitional stage of every new scheme. No system could become perfect all at once and the mere possibility of mistakes being committed should not deter the Government from launching on progressive schemes. No advance was possible without self-confidence and to create such confidence in non-officials, opportunities should be afforded to them for training. While admitting that Mysore had a progressive administration, compared to other States, he was not prepared to own that the generality of the people were contented and happy. The economic condition of the people was far from satisfactory and much headway had to be made in improving the lot of the average man.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR did not agree with the view that the grant of the privilege of having a non-official President would throw to the background the more vital question of responsible Government. On the other hand, he believed it to be a reform in the right direction. In conclusion, he said that the Representative Assembly was an ornament to the State and that there should be a non-official to preside over it. With the above observations, he supported the resolution.

Mr. SYED MOHIYUDDIN HUSSEIN opposed the resolution. He pointed out that one of the principal objects in establishing the Representative Assembly, as stated by the then Dewan in his Opening Address to the first Assembly, was "to ensure that the actions of the Government were brought into greater harmony with the wishes and the interests of the people." That object was implemented by selecting representatives from every nook and corner of the State, both urban and rural. The Assembly had stood the test of over half a century and its usefulness to, and influence over, the administration was an acknowledged fact. All this was rendered possible by the personal contact between the Assembly and the Head of the Administration.

The speaker had his own doubts if the British Indian Assemblies, with their non-official Presidents, exercised as much influence over the Executive Government as the councils of Mysore. He considered it a great honour to have a President in the person of the Dewan who had administrative control over 65 lakhs of people and he opposed the proposal to replace him by a non-official President.

Speaking in support of the resolution, **Mr. Belur SRINIVASIENGAR** reviewed the history of political institutions in Mysore in three stages, *viz.*, (1) pre-reform, (2) reform, and (3) post-reform periods. He pointed out that even the Seal Committee Report on the constitutional developments in Mysore had foreshadowed, so long ago as 1923, that

"a non-official President of the Representative Assembly may come in, in course of time."

Formerly, the sessions of the Representative Assembly had the appearance of *jamabandi* conducted by the Dewan. Latterly some progress was made and the Assembly was given a definite status under the constitution. The Dewan had acknowledged in his Opening Address to the October Session of the Assembly in 1924, that the popular voice was being felt in the Government of the country, and cordiality between the Government and the governed was a matter of every day concern to both. Again, in his latest Address the Dewan had expressed the confidence that the people of Mysore would play their part in a worthy manner as prospective partners in the All-India Federation.

In view of the testimony referred to above, the speaker said that there should be no manner of hesitation on the part of the Government to give increased powers to the non-official members, and thus to implement the promise made by the Ruler in the matter of transfer of power from the Government to the people.

As regards the adverse remarks made about the capabilities of the non-official Presidents of District Boards, **Mr. SRINIVASIENGAR** said that as against one or two stray cases of inefficiency, there were several instances where the District Board Presidents had earned medals in recognition of good work done. Thus the competence of non-officials as a class was unquestionable. Moreover, Mysore was acknowledged to be in the forefront of 600 odd Indian States and it was the duty of the Government to take the people into confidence and create opportunities to non-officials to be trained in the art of administration.

Proceeding, the speaker referred to another argument in favour of the reform. Mysore had copied British India in several progressive matters and it was but logical that they should also copy it in the matter of having non-official Presidents for the Assembly and the Council.

In conclusion, the member said that the aspirations of the non-official members were quite legitimate and it would be up to the Government to satisfy those aspirations by accepting the resolution. He therefore prayed that the resolution be submitted to His Highness the Maharaja, with the strong support of the Dewan.

Khan Bahadur MAHOMED ABBAS KHAN, in supporting the resolution, said that the request of the members of the House was a just one. In the House there were a good number of educated and cultured people competent enough to discharge the onerous duties of President of the Assembly. At the time the District Boards were given the privilege of electing their own presidents, doubts had been entertained about their capacity to discharge the onerous duties attached to their offices. But experience showed that the doubts were all unfounded. Not only that; it was also a matter for pride that some of them had earned public service medals for their meritorious services. Similarly, if the request contained in the resolution was granted, he was sure that non-officials would rise to the occasion and prove themselves worthy of the confidence reposed in them. The speaker did not believe that by the appointment of a non-official President to the Assembly, the powers and prestige of the Government would be affected.

Continuing, **Mr. ABBAS KHAN** said that members of the Assembly were hoping that some day, one of them would adorn the Presidential Chair of that House. Such an aspiration on their part was just and reasonable. He had no doubt that it would add to the reputation of Mysore which was already spoken of as a Model State, if the Assembly consisting of the representatives of 64 lakhs of His Highness's subjects should have a non-official President to guide its deliberations.

With these remarks he appealed to the House to support the resolution and prayed to Government to submit it to His Highness the Maharaja with their strong support for his gracious consideration.

In winding up the debate, the **PRESIDENT** observed that the resolution had been discussed at great length for two days and that both the supporters and the opposers had explained their views very ably. As his task had become considerably lightened on this account, he would confine his observations to only a few points.

At the outset he regretted that the Government were not in a position to accept the resolution owing to certain difficulties. One of them was that according to the Representative Assembly Regulation, the Dewan should be the *ex officio* President of the Assembly and as such no non-official could be appointed as its President unless and until the Regulation was amended. Also, if the question was examined in detail, it would be manifest that it was faced with other difficulties. It must also be borne in mind that the Representative Assembly, as pointed out by Mr. Syed Mohiyuddin Hussein, was constituted to serve a definite purpose, *viz.*, that the Government and the people should be brought into close contact and that the actions of the Government should be brought into greater harmony with the wishes and the interests of the people, and that purpose could be served only if the Head of the Administration was its President and not otherwise.

Some members had argued that it would be more in consonance with democracy if a non-official should adorn the Presidential Chair of the Assembly. But he explained that the term "democracy" had various connotations and was understood differently in different countries. Its form also varied from country to country though its essentials remained the same. It could not be denied that the Assembly was a democratic body. Its very name was suggestive of its democratic character. The representatives from all parts of the State met together and discussed matters pertaining to their grievances and wants with the officers of Government directly and were getting redress then and there. That was one form of democracy and a desirable form, too.

Referring to the view expressed by some of the members who supported the resolution that the official President, being the Executive Head, could not devote undivided attention to the work of the Assembly during its sittings as he would be busy with official matters, the speaker said that though the official President had to attend to administrative work, yet he would be giving a patient hearing to the several representations of the members and giving them suitable replies. Such a course would not be possible if the Assembly had a non-official President, as his duties would be confined to the proper conduct of business of the Assembly and the final disposals would be in the hands of the Government. He requested the members to bear that aspect of the matter in mind in giving their support to the resolution.

As regards the suggestion that the President of the Assembly should be independent of the Executive, as in British India, he would like to bring to the notice of the House that there was a wide-spread opinion that where there was no direct contact between the Government and the people or their representatives, the interests of the people at large would not be truly served. Viewed in that light, he had no hesitation in saying that the present system under which the Government consulted the Assembly, members of which were direct representatives of the people, on various matters, was a very sound one.

It was also expressed by some of the speakers that the Assembly had no powers at present similar to those which other democratic assemblies possessed. He would have accepted that statement if the Assembly had any legislative functions to discharge. But it was not so. On the other hand, the Assembly was only a consultative body. It was a common meeting place for both the Government and the representatives of the people to put their heads together and design measures for the well-being of the people at large.

In conclusion, **the PRESIDENT** said that he had placed the above facts before the House, not in any spirit of opposition to the resolution, but with the

object of clearly explaining the advantages as well as the disadvantages of the proposal contained in the resolution so that the members might examine all aspects of the question before deciding whether to support or to oppose the resolution.

Mr. K. M. KRISHNAPPA GOWDA suggested that as it was the desire of the House that its opinion on this important resolution should be communicated to His Highness the Maharaja, the resolution be put to vote.

Thereupon the resolution was put to vote and carried by an overwhelming majority.

REPRESENTATIONS—*concld.*

No. 141.—Completion of Pavagada-Hindupur Road.

Messrs. P. NAGARAJIAH and G. SHANKARA SETTI, Pavagada Taluk.

Mr. G. SHANKARA SETTI represented that Hindupur was the central market for all kinds of trade carried on by people of Pavagada Taluk. But carts conveying the merchandise to Hindupur had to go *via* Madakasira, covering a distance of 33 miles. In case a direct road was opened from Pavagada to Hindupur, the distance would be only about 25 miles. The formation of this road which had been taken up was stopped. He prayed that the work might be taken up and completed early.

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar) replied that an estimate amounting to Rs. 12,830 had been submitted to Government for sanction and the work would be started as soon as the quota of the District Board was made available for the work.

No. 142.—Formation of a new road from Bettadapura to Kusalnagara in Periyapatna Sub-Taluk.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA, Hunsur Taluk.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA represented that the area included within the boundaries of Koppa, Avarthi, Sulekote, Chamarayakote, Kanagal, Halaganahalli, Bettadapura and Periyapatna in the Periyapatna Sub-Taluk had become *bechirak* though there were any number of channels and the lands were fertile in that area. That was due to the fact that there were no roads or other means of communication in the area and the difficulties experienced by the people there were inexplicable. There were indications here and there that attempts had been made in the past to construct a road from Bettadapura to Kusalnagara, but he could not say why the work was not carried out fully. It might be said that the village panchayets concerned might take up the work and complete it. But the panchayets were not in a position to undertake the work as their revenues were already in arrear owing to the poverty of the people. He therefore requested the Government to kindly undertake the construction of a road from Bettadapura to Kusalnagara and earn the gratitude of the people. He added that the road, if constructed, would, in addition to opening up the tract, foster trade between Mysore and Coorg.

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT (Diwan Bahadur N. N. Ayyangar) said that though the Government admitted the necessity for the road, it was a work to be undertaken by the Mysore District Board.

Mr. H. M. CHANNABASAPPA urged that Government themselves should undertake the work as the District Board was not in a position to do so.

Mr. N. N. AYYANGAR replied that the construction of the said road required a very heavy outlay as the road would have to pass through forest tract. Also, the work had to be undertaken by the Mysore District Board, and if the District Board sent up a resolution to the Government agreeing to take up the work, they would consider the question sympathetically.

No. 143.—Construction of a road to Savandrug.

Mr. Shroff RANGASWAMY CHETTY, Magadi Municipality.

Mr. Shroff RANGASWAMY CHETTY represented that in the previous year he